Sweet Punishment
SENSE SCANS
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八犬伝
第23話
―宵惑い―
―東方八犬異聞―

I DON'T REALLY LIKE THE DAY OF THE NEW MOON
EVEN THE USUALLY NOISY MURASAME IS SO QUIET ON THIS DAY
JUST WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE NEW MOON?
AND SINCE THAT DAY, FIVE YEARS AGO, WHEN THIS DAY COMES,
SOUSUKE FALLS INTO A DEEP, DEEP SLEEP FOR THE ENTIRE DAY.

WHEN I HEARD IT, I HALF THOUGHT IT WAS A JOKE. BUT...
-PUTTING ASIDE SATOMI AND OSAKI,
MEETING THE MIZUKI FAMILY'S AYANE WAS COMPLETELY IRREGULAR.
NORMALLY, SHE'D BE PROTECTED INSIDE CHIKAGE'S BARRIER AND NEVER MEET ANYBODY.
SO THE TOPIC OF THE REMAINING "DEMON POSSESSED" NEVER CAME UP.
ANYWAY, SHINO,
-He got kicked
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT HINOZUKA FROM SATOMI-DONO?
NOTHING
FOR A KID LIKE YOU, GOING TO BED EARLY AND WAKING UP EARLY SHOULD BE NATURAL, RIGHT?
REALLY?
EVEN I THOUGHT IT WAS SOME KIND OF ILLNESS AT FIRST!
BUT ON THE NEXT DAY, HE JUST WOKE UP AS USUAL... BUT ACTUALLY, THE WAY THIS GUY GETS UP SO EARLY IN THE MORNING LIKE SOME OLD PERSON WAS STRANGE TO BEGIN WITH...

ONE OF THE FOUR HOUSES OF THE "DEMON POSSESSED" WHOM WE MET YESTERDAY FOR THE FIRST TIME,
THE CAT-POSSESSED HINOZUKA
AAAH, THIS IS SO AN-NOYING
LIKE I SAID,
THE INUMURA FAMILY'S OLD MAN DIED, ABOUT HALF A YEAR AGO.
CAUSE, WELL, HE REACHED HIS TIME
HE CALLED YOU, OUT HERE IN THE DETACHED HOUSE, "FATHER"..
THAT'S IT! THE SOURCE OF ALL THESE PROBLEMS IS THAT STUPID SON!
BECAUSE HE CAN'T ACCEPT HIS FATHER'S DEATH..
YOU'VE SEEN THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ON THE BACK MOUNTAIN RIGHT?
IT'S BEEN BLOOMING LIKE AN IDIOT FOR HALF A YEAR NOW
EVEN THOUGH THE SEA-SON HAS LONG CHANGED TO AU-TUMN
HM?
THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE..?
THAT OLD MAN FENEGAN WAS GOING ON ABOUT HOW HE JUST HAD TO HAVE AN INUMURA DOLL, SO—

AH!!
IN THE END, MY CAT WENT INTO A REBELLIOUS PERIOD
THAT SHITTY OLD MAN!!
AND SINCE HE DIDN'T WANT TO GO HOME I GOT STUCK PLAYING THE PART OF THE OLD MAN FOR HALF A YEAR
SO, THEN THE STRANGE BARRIER PLACED HERE IS THE SONG THAT DAIKAKU-SAN CREATED?
ALTHOUGH WE ENTERED WITHOUT A PROBLEM
WELL, OF COURSE
JUST WHO DO YOU THINK
THAT BRAT YOU'RE TAKING AROUND WITH YOU REALLY IS?

ALSO, DAIKAKU ISN'T THE ONE WHO MADE THIS STRANGE BARRIER
THE PET CAT IS FAITHFULLY PROJECTING HIS MASTER'S DESIRES
CATS ARE UNEXPECTEDLY SENSITIVE, YOU KNOW
SO IT'S A CAT RETURNING A FAVOR?
WELL, THEY SAY IF A PET CAT LIVES SEVEN YEARS, IT'LL TURN INTO A MONSTER CAT, TOO
SHINO?
YEAH, WHAT'S UP?
I'M RIGHT HERE, YOU KNOW
SO IT WOULD SEEM
I'M SORRY TO BE LIKE THIS, WHEN WE'RE ON A TRIP
IT'S FINE
EVEN WITHOUT YOU WORRYING, I'LL STAY BY YOUR SIDE THE WHOLE DAY
WELL... IF YOU ALWAYS FOLLOWED THOSE WORDS TO THE LETTER I WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO FEEL UNEASY ABOUT, BUT
ALL RIGHT, JUST SHUT UP AND SLEEP!!!

WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
To talk things out with Daikaku!
WATCH SOUSUKE FOR ME FOR A BIT.
AT THIS RATE, THINGS WILL NEVER GET RESOLVED
GEN-PACHI
WHAT IS IT?
HEY!!
WAI-SHINO!
I MEAN, DAIKAKU IS ONE THING.
BUT WILL HE TELL THAT LITTLE SISTER STRAIGHT OUT,
"YOUR FATHER IS ALREADY DEAD"?
DOES HE MEAN TO JUST SAY IT STRAIGHT OUT?
SERIOUSLY,
THAT GUY

DADADADA
DAIKAKU!
YOU'RE NOISY, TALKING SO LOUDLY IN THE MORNING
QUIT BLATHERING AND COMPLETE THAT DOLL!
YOU'RE THE SUCCESSOR OF THE INU-MURA, AREN'T YOU!?
THAT'S WRONG
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?
THAT'S FATHER'S
YOU RE THE ONE WHO MADE THAT DOLL, AREN'T YOU
IT WASN'T YOUR OLD MAN
IT WAS YOU,
DAIKAKU

AFTER ALL OF YESTERDAY, EVEN I CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DOLLS YOU OR THE OLD MAN INUMURA MADE!
I MEAN, WERE YOU ABLE TO MAKE EVEN ONE NEW DOLL AFTER "THAT"?
OUCH!
QUIT PULLING!
HEY-- I STILL HAVE STUFF TO SAY TO DAIKAKU!
SHINO-SAMA!!! A MOMENT..
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
JUST COME WITH ME!
PLUS, YOU...
AT THIS RATE, YOU AND YOUR SISTER WILL STAY CLOSETED UP OUT HERE-

PLEASE, SHINO-SAMA,
STAY QUIET ABOUT MY FATHER FOR THE TIME BEING
RIGHT NOW, MY BROTHER IS A LONG WAYS OFF FROM BEING ABLE TO ACCEPT IT
—WAIT, HINAGIKU,
YOU—
MAYBE BECAUSE SOMEWHERE IN HIS HEART HE IS BLAMING HIMSELF FOR FATHER'S DEATH,
HE BEHAVES AS IF FATHER WERE STILL ALIVE. WE ARE CAUSING MUCH TROUBLE TO HINOZUKA-SAMA
WHY WOULD THERE BE A NEED FOR DAIKAKU TO BLAME HIMSELF?
WOMEN ARE JUST—
AS YOU HAVE SAID, SHINO-SAMA. MY FATHER HAS DIED
SINCE THEN, MY BROTHER HAS BEEN LIKE THAT
YOU KNEW? ABOUT YOU FATHER AND
WELL,
I'M NOT LIKE MY BROTHER, AFTER ALL
ON TOP OF BEING UNABLE TO DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN,
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS CONTINUED TO BLOOM FOR HALF A YEAR. OF COURSE I WOULD FIND IT STRANGE

JUST BEFORE OUR FATHER DIED
A MAN WHO CALLED HIMSELF HIS YOUNGER BROTHER CAME WHILE BROTHER WAS OUT
OUR FATHER KNEW THAT HE HAD A SISTER WHO HAD PASSED AWAY,
BUT IT WAS HIS FIRST TIME HEARING SHE HAD BEEN MARRIED, SO HE WAS SURPRISED.
ON TOP OF THAT...
COULD YOU RETURN MY SON TO ME?
HE ALREADY HAS THE SKILLS AS AN INUMURA APPRENTICE TO WORK ON HIS OWN, RIGHT?
FROM NOW ON, HE NEEDS TO TAKE CARE OF THE FATHER HE HAS BLOOD TIES TO
SO IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU RETURNED MY SON
FATHER IMMEDIATELY REFUSED HIM BUT THE MAN FLEW INTO A RAGE
GIVE ME BACK MY SON!
YOU JUST CAME ON YOUR OWN AND TOOK MY CHILD AWAY!
THAT'S MY SON!
JUST BECAUSE YOU HAD NO CHILDREN OF YOUR OWN!
FATHER MANAGED TO GET THE MAN TO LEAVE THAT DAY IN EXCHANGE FOR SEVERAL DOLLS HE HAD MADE.

THE POINT WHEN FATHER COLLAPSED WAS SOON AFTER THAT
OUR FATHER, WHO HATED HIS DOLLS TO PASS MEANINGLESSLY INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S HANDS
HAD TO LET GO OF HIS DOLLS LIKE THAT I'M SURE HE MUST HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATED
UM... THEN, OLD MAN INUMURA
JUST LIKE THAT, HE PASSED AWAY
MY BROTHER REGRETTED WHAT HAPPENED WHILE HE WASN'T HERE
I SEE
...THEN, WHAT ABOUT THIS BARRIER?
THESE CHERRY BLOSSOMS
JUST WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO PROTECT HIM FROM?

SHINO-SAMA?
I'M GONNA GO LOOK FOR THE CAT FOR A BIT!
WAI-SHINO-SAMA!
IF YOU GO TOO DEEP INTO THE MOUN-TAINS
I'll be fine, really!
Make roast beef sand-wiches for lunch okay?
GOOD-NESS
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO RAIN, SO PLEASE COME BACK SOON, ALL RIGHT!

YOU LITTLE!
HEY, YOU! WAIT A MINUTE!
WHY ARE YOU CHASING ME!?
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!
What's with this guy? He's scary!
I SAID, WAIT!!!
YOU GUYS CAME TO STEAL THE DOLLS HERE, RIGHT?
YOU'RE JUST LIKE THAT MAN,
HURTING DAIKAKU AND TAKING THE DOLLS.
THERE'S NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT!
YOU SHOULD JUST GET OUT OF HERE ALREADY!
AH, DAMMIT
I JUST SAID I HAD SOMETHING I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT!

HE'S A HEARTLESS HUMAN WHO CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER YOUR NAME
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHY WOULD YOU GO SO FAR TO PROTECT THAT MAN?
SO WHAT IF HE'S FORGOTTEN?
EVEN SO, I RECEIVED A NAME FROM DAIKAKU
JUST THAT IS PLENTY FOR ME-

ゴロ
OH?
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A RAIN SHOWER COMING.
OW-AAAAAAAA!!!

NO, I GUESS IT'S NOT JUST THAT TREE
IT MIGHT BE THAT ALL OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES IN THIS AREA ARE LIKE THAT
WHA-
WHA-
WHA-
AH, MAN
WELL, NO WONDER IT BROKE
WHY DID IT...
I MEAN, THIS TREE
IT'S AMAZING IT COULD MAKE FLOWERS BLOOM
ITS TRUNK IS ROTTEN AND ITS INSIDES ARE IN PIECES
!!

...T'S MY FAULT
BECAUSE I ASKED THEM SO FORCE-FULLY...
DAIKAKU REALLY LIKES THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS AROUND HERE
SO I ASKED THEM TO BLOOM EVERY DAY, AND THAT'S WHY THEY...
WHY
わぁん
IT'S MY FAULT!?
WHAAAT!?
You made him cry...
You made "that", cry...
You did.
SHUT UP

STUPI-
STO-
Oh dear
It's not my fau-lt
But, well, this is all right The cherry blossoms here were pretty, but
I've grown tired of looking at them.

Y-YOU!!
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'VE DONE!!
SHUT UP.
THIS KIND OF FORCE-FULLY PLACED BARRIER
EVEN IF I DIDN'T BREAK IT, IT WOULDN'T HAVE LASTED MUCH LONGER ANYWAY
IF YOU FORCE THEM TO MAKE FLOWERS BLOOM FOR HALF A YEAR, THEN THE LIFE-SPANS OF THE TREES WOULD SOON RUN OUT.
ALTHOUGH IT'S PROBABLY TOO LATE ALREADY...
BUT
BUT
IT'S NO GOOD.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
EVEN IF I MANAGED TO DRIVE HIM OUT,
THAT GUY WILL COME BACK!
THAT GUY?

DAIKAKU CAN'T GO AGAINST THAT GUY.
AND HE'S REALLY PERSIS-TENT.
SO I HAD THEM PROTECT HIM, BUT
...RAIN, HUH. SO IT'S STARTED FALLING
SHEESH. JUST HOW LONG IS SHINO PLANNING ON...
WHOAH!
SOU-SUKE!
WHA-
HEY!

AM I
WHY
HINA-GIKU
YES, BIG BROTHER?
STILL ALIVE?
AND THEN, THAT GUY CAME
FATHER DIED

THAT DAY TOO...
IT WAS RAINING, RIGHT?
ARE YOU SUFFERING, HINA?
WE DO HAVE SOME MEDICINE LEFT, BUT...
I'M SORRY...
ONCE THE RAIN LETS UP, I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE DOCTOR AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN
EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT MY ASTHMA WAS ALREADY BETTER...
IT'S OKAY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I'VE BEEN RELYING ON YOU TOO MUCH EVER SINCE FATHER SUDDENLY PASSED AWAY
I'M SORRY, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE STILL A CHILD
TAKE IT EASY AND REST
YES
I'M SORR...
PEOPLE ARE TALKING?
HAS SOMEONE COME TO PAY THEIR CONDOLENCES?

I'M YOUR FATHER, YOU KNOW!?
AFTER I'VE FINALLY SEARCHED YOU OUT, IS THAT ANY KIND OF ATTITUDE TO SHOW ME?!
THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING, IF YOU DON'T HAVE MONEY, THEN GIVE ME SOME DOLLS!!
YOU REMEMBER, RIGHT!?
I AM YOUR REAL FATHER!
I DO REMEMBER
THAT MAN FORCEFULLY TOOK YOU AWAY FROM ME AND THEN DISAPPEARED!
I'VE SAID THIS MANY TIMES, BUT I WON'T HAND OVER THE DOLLS
ALSO, YOU ARE NOT MY FATHER. I HAVE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT OF YOU AS MY FATHER
SEE, I THOUGHT SO!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
THAT MAN
WAS NOT FIT TO BE A PARENT TO SOMEONE'S CHILD
THAT HE WAS THE WORST SORT OF MAN.

HAHA
MY BLOOD-RELATED SON
YOU ARE MY SON
NO WAY I'LL HAND YOU OVER..
DAIKAKU!
HURRY UP AND GET OUT
THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME I MEET WITH YOU

IT'S UN-FORGIV-ABLE, RIGHT?
—WHA-
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A DOLL-MAKER WHO COULDN'T SELL,
HE TOOK YOU AWAY FROM ME..
IN THE END, INUMURA'S DOLLS SELL FOR A HIGH PRICE JUST WITH THE NAME...
—AAH, WHAT A WASTE
EVEN THOUGH IF YOU LIVED, YOU COULD HAVE EARNED MORE...
AH SUCH A WASTE

NO CHOICE, I'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR JUST TAKING THE DOLLS...
AH, SUCH A WASTE..
AM I
BRO-
WHY...
BIG BROTH-ER...-
JUST GOING TO DIE LIKE THIS?
HINA...
AAH, SHE'S HAVING ANOTHER ASTHMATIC FIT...
POOR THING I HAVE TO HURRY UP AND GET HER MEDICINE
MEDICINE...

PLEASE GIVE HINAGIKU HER MEDICINE
IT'S THAT WHITE MEDICINE THAT'S ALWAYS IN HER ROOM
ALSO
HEY
IF YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING,
AAAH
SO YOU CAME HOME
PLEASE KEEP WATCH SO THAT THE MAN DOESN'T TAKE ANY OF THE DOLLS OUT OF HERE
AND,
AND THEN...
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO WORRY. FRESH FOOD AND WATER ARE LAID OUT IN THE USUAL PLACE

AND THEN
I
DON'T WANT TO DIE, LEAVING SO MANY THINGS
BEHIND.
...
BIG BROTH-ER—

WHAT'S THAT?
THAT CREEPY THING
HE CAME
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
DAIKAKU WILL GET TAKEN AWAY!
HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT DAIKAKU'S GONNA...
WAIT, MY FAULT?
GYAAAAA!
SOU-SUKE

YOSHIRO?
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU NOT TO BE SLEEPING?
WHAT? YOU CAME TO PICK ME UP?
YOU ARE...
NO-
...?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
DO YOU NOT REMEMBER? BY THE TIME I OPENED MY EYES, THE WOUND HAD DISAPPEARED.
THAT DAY, WERE YOU NOT THE ONE WHO GAVE ME MY MEDICINE, BIG BROTHER?
IF SO,
THAT WOULD MEAN I KILLED THAT MAN WITHOUT BEING AWARE OF IT

HINA-GIKU
FOR DOING SUCH A HORRIBLE THING TO HIS BLOOD-RELATED SON!
YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING, BIG BROTHER!
THAT PERSON RE-CEIVED JUST WHAT HE DE-SERVES!
Daikaku is
-y son.

-is
...-y
son
?
GYA!
UWAH!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!
-is

...give back...
DAIKAKU?
THEN,
IS THAT THE FATHER OF DAIKAKU THAT HINAGIKU WAS TALKING ABOUT?
SON
WAAAAAAAH!
.....
UM, IS IT OKAY IF I CHOP DOWN THAT CREEPY THING OVER THERE?
WHY ARE YOU STOPPING ME?
THAT THING STOPPED BEING HUMAN A LONG TIME AGO, RIGHT?
EVEN I WANT TO DO THAT!
BUT, DAIKAKU...
LET'S HAVE YOU DISAPPEAR ALREADY!
THEN I HAVE EVEN LESS REASON TO FEEL BAD ABOUT IT
WAI-

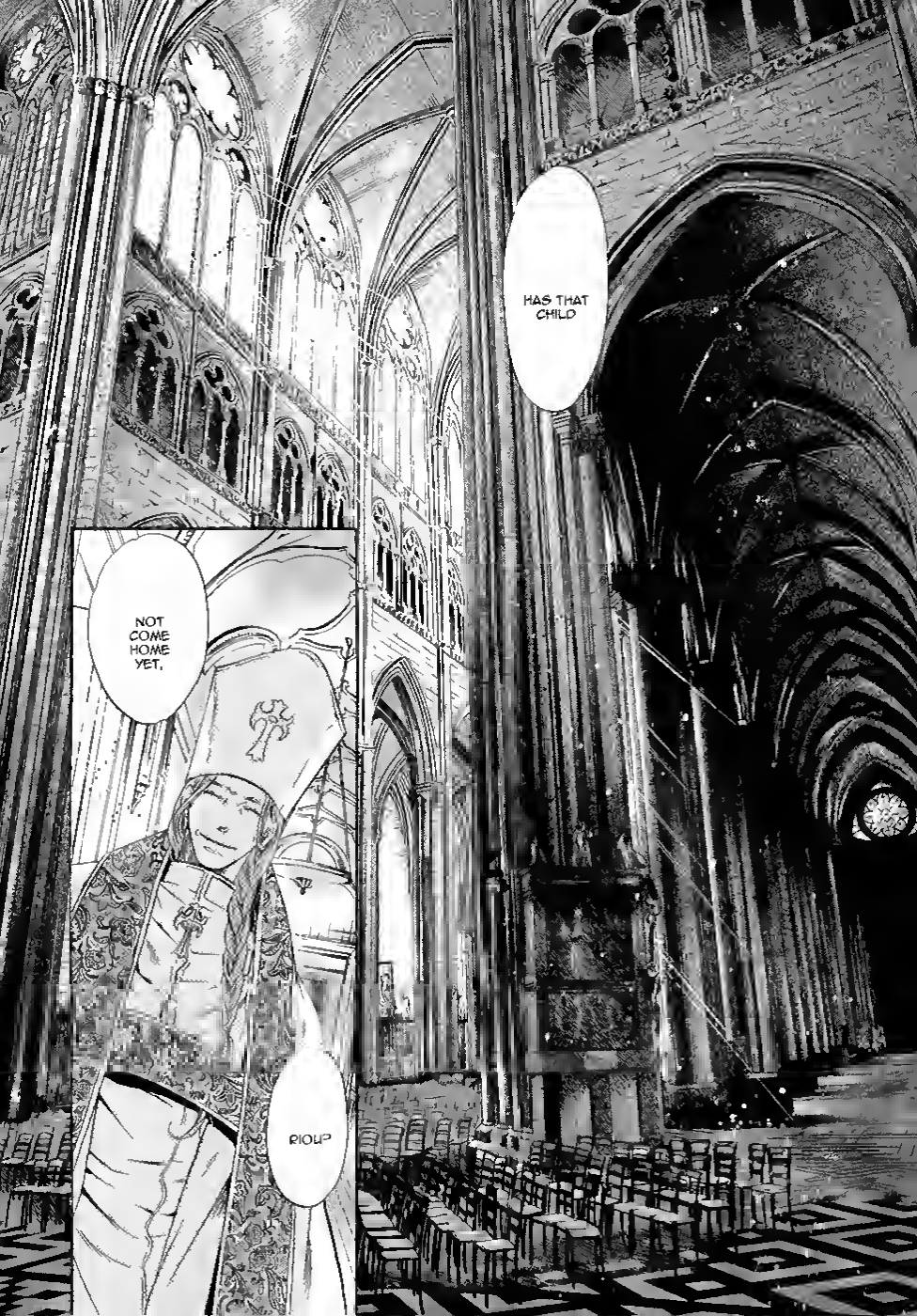
WOAH!?
HINA,
STAY BACK
BRO-
THERE SEEMS TO BE A SOMEWHAT STRANGE GUEST OUT BACK, IS IT SOMEONE YOU KNOW?
INUKAI-DONO
I'M SORRY, BUT COULD I ENTRUST MY SISTER TO YOU FOR A WHILE?
UNDER-STOOD
ALTHOUGH, IF IT'S AN UNIN-VITED GUEST, I COULD DRIVE HIM OFF FOR YOU
NO,
-give back-

REAL LY
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE
HUH ?!
OUCH
COULD YOU PLEASE STOP JUST SWINGING MURASAME AROUND WITHOUT THINKING?
SOU-SUKE ?!
IF HE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY,
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE TELLING YOU TO STAY STILL!
EVEN IF I WANTED TO DO THAT. I WAS FORCED AWAKE BY YOSHIRO!
WHY DID YOU COME OUT!?
YOU SHOULD JUST TAKE IT EASY AND SLEEP!
AHH, REALLY, GETTING SOAKING WET...
SHINO, ARE YOU AWARE OF WHO THAT IS?
THEN I, HIS "SON" SHOULD LISTEN TO IT, RIGHT?
WHO.. I HEARD FROM HINA-GINU
THAT DAIKAKU'S REAL FATHER PERSIST-ENTLY KEPT SAYING TO "GIVE HIM BACK"
WRAPPED UP, YOU SAY...
IF YOU HADN'T STOPPED ME, I COULD HAVE ALREADY WRAPPED THIS UP!

AH... OR MAYBE "HE" WANTED TO LEAVE A PART OF HIMSELF IN THIS WORLD...
EITHER WAY, WHEN A HUMAN DIES, STRONG ATTACHMENTS ARE ALL THAT REMAIN
FATHER, HUH...
MONEY, RANK, FAME, AND PROPERTY
EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN'T TAKE A SINGLE ONE WITH YOU...
SOU?
IT'S A MYSTERIOUS THING
A PERSON'S "SCENT" STILL REMAINS...
EITHER WAY, THIS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU SHOULD GET INVOLVED IN, SHINO.
...WHY? I MEAN, THAT...
YOU SAID IT, RIGHT, SHINO?
THAT IT WAS DAIKAKU-SAN'S "FATHER"

REALLY, YOU..
YOU ALWAYS COME HOME WITH SUCH GOOD TIMING
IF YOU SAY "FATHER", HE IS CERTAINLY HIS FATHER

INUMURA NORIKIYO-SHI
THAT IS...
"HE" IS...


HAS THAT CHILD
NOT COME HOME YET.
PIOUP

I'M REALLY MORE OF THE PATIENT TYPE
OH, NO.
YOU'RE QUITE IMPA-TIENT.
AFTER ALL, THE FIRST ONE I SENT HASN'T COME BACK FOR HALF A YEAR
FOR A CHILD'S ERRAND, GOING THROUGH MAR-KETS AND SIDE PATHS ARE TO BE EXPECTED, RIGHT?
I WONDER WHERE MY ERRAND CAT HAS GONE.
AS I THOUGHT, DOGS ARE BETTER THAN CATS FOR RUNNING ERRANDS
HUM?
THERE'S BEEN ABSOLUTELY NO NEWS FROM HIM SINCE THEN, AFTER ALL.
THI-
I'M SO WORRIED
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HE MAY HAVE BECOME UNABLE TO RETURN, AFTER ALL.
...CARDI-NAL FEN-ESAN.
DID YOU NOT ASK ME THE WHEREABOUTS OF HINOZUKA JUST THE OTHER DAY?
HM?
MAYBE IT REALLY WAS A BAD IDEA TO SEND A CHILD?
I DO HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT
THAT'S WHY, I ASKED YOU BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT KNOW WHERE HE'S GOTTEN OFF TO

THIS...
WELL, THAT'S HOW IT IS, SO RIOU.
WOULD YOU MIND GOING, AFTER ALL?
SLY OLD MAN!!!!
...WAS THAT ALL RIGHT?
HM?
AFTER ALL, HE IS THAT CHILD'S GUARDIAN.
JUST SENDING SATOMI-SAMA ON ERRANDS WITHOUT PERMISSION?

ALSO,
FOR "THAT" RIOU
TO SO OPENLY DISPLAY A BAD MOOD
SINCE I HAVE AN OLDER BROTHER AND A YOUNGER SISTER, I UNDERSTAND HIS FEELINGS VERY WELL
EVEN IF TAKING CARE OF THINGS BECOMES SOMEWHAT TROUBLESOME
AND THAT HE WOULD THINK THAT IT CAN'T BE HELPED
第23話 END